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**Former Compton Fire Battalion Chief Sentenced
for Arson, Embezzlement**

A former Compton fire battalion chief was sentenced yesterday to three years and four months in state prison after he was convicted of embezzlement and arson, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Renee Rose of the Target Crimes Division, Arson Section, said Marcel Dione Melanson, 38, was immediately remanded into custody.

At his court appearance, the defendant paid \$100,000 in restitution to victims and to the city of Compton. Also, Melanson was ordered to pay an additional \$417,477.82 to the city of Compton.

Moreover, the defendant must register as an arson offender for life.

The sentence from Judge David M. Horwitz comes after Melanson pleaded no contest on April 15 to embezzlement by public or private officer and arson of property.

Prosecutors said that on Dec. 11, 2011, Melanson reportedly set fire to radio equipment that then caused extensive damage to the Compton Fire Department's headquarters. The defendant allegedly set the fire to conceal the theft of the radio equipment.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Montebello Fire Department and Long Beach Fire Department investigated the case.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.